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Identical letters dated 24 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the communiqué of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in his capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, on the resumption of hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on the resumption of hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has learned with deep concern of the resumption of armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815, annex).

These regrettable developments, which seriously jeopardize the security and stability of the region, are occurring at a time when OAU, on the one hand, and the United Nations, on the other, have stepped up their efforts to implement the Ceasefire Agreement, as demonstrated by the recent Security Council resolution deciding on the deployment of a United Nations interposition force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In view of the resumption of hostilities, the current Chairman of OAU reiterates the appeals that he made in December 1999 and January 2000, calling upon the parties involved to display greater restraint, act firmly to respect the ceasefire and cooperate fully with the United Nations and the Joint Military Commission in order to establish the conditions required for the rapid, effective and complete implementation of the peace agreement.

In that connection, the current Chairman of OAU wishes, yet again, to urge the parties concerned to refrain from resorting to weapons, to favour dialogue, and to provide active support for the efforts and actions of the United Nations and the Joint Military Commission with a view to establishing a climate conducive to the process of restoring peace.

In this situation, the current Chairman of OAU remains persuaded that only the commitment of the parties involved to the peace process and to the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement can ensure the restoration of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and thus in the Great Lakes region as a whole, with the support of OAU and the United Nations, acting through the Secretary-General and the Security Council.